

**STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
PROBLEM GAMBLING &
ADDICITON SERVICES**

February 7, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
WICK Alumni Center
1520 R Street, Lincoln, NE

Commission Members Present: John Atherton, Wayne Choat, Janet French, Kate Speck, Dick Stalker, Robert Sylvester

Commission Members Absent: Sherrie Geier, Theo Hudson, Lynda Lakin, Andrea McAllister, Tom Nutt,

HHS Staff Present: Katrina Ondracek-Gamblers Assistance Manager, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Gordon Tush-Gamblers Assistance Program Specialist, Division of Behavioral Health Services; Linda Jensen, Staff Assistant, Division of Behavioral Health Services; Barb Thomas, Assistant Director, Division of Behavioral Health Services

Guests Present: Deb Hammond-Director, Choices, Mike Sullivan-Director, Sullivan Counseling, Eric Hunsberger

CALL TO ORDER

John Atherton, Vice Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services conducted the meeting in the absence of Sherrie Geier, Chairperson. He called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Linda Jensen called the roll of members and determined that there was not a quorum.

Introductions/Welcome

John welcomed all members and three guests. John acknowledged Katrina Ondracek, who is newly appointed as Gamblers Assistance Program Manager at the Division of Behavioral Health Services. All members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of November 9, 2005 Minutes

The November 9, 2005 minutes (attached) were not approved as there was not a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda

There was no vote taken for changes in the agenda (attached) as there was not a quorum present. Members present agreed to continue the meeting as discussion of the agenda items.

Introduction of Program Manager

Katrina Ondracek started her position as Gambling Assistance Program Manager at the Division of Behavioral Health Services on December 19, 2005.

- Katrina has a Masters Degree in Anthropology from the University of Nebraska.
- Prior to her employment with the Division, she attended NCRG Conference in Las Vegas in early December 2005.
- She will be speaking at the Nebraska Spring Conference on Problem Gambling sponsored by the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling in Lincoln, Nebraska March 6 and 7, 2006.
- She plans on attending the National Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota June 22-24, 2006 and the Midwest Conference in Kansas City, Missouri August 16-18, 2006.

Housekeeping

REPORTS

Report from Behavioral Health Council

Katrina Ondracek and Kate Speck reported in Barb Thomas' temporary absence from the meeting.

- The definition of a "consumer" was discussed at the November 9, 2005 Behavioral Health Council meeting.
 - ✓ A satisfactory definition was not agreeable with all members of the Behavioral Health Council.
 - ✓ The members discussed their interpretations of a consumer, the importance of family members being included and who makes the decision of the definition of a consumer.

Status of Recruitment for Program Specialist

Eric Hunsberger has accepted the position of Gamblers Assistant Program Specialist at the Division of Behavioral Health Services.

- He will begin employment on February 17, 2006.
- He has a strong background in prevention and evaluation

Program Reports

1. Financial

- Katrina Ondracek presented a brief overview of current expenditures for individual providers and agencies (attached).
- Lutheran Family Services in Scottsbluff, Nebraska (located in Region 1) has closed and three individual providers are willing to accommodate Region 1 with services.
 - ✓ The remaining balance left from Lutheran Family Services has been divided among those three individuals to provide services.
 - ✓ Katrina asked the members to be thinking about how they would like to handle the process of providing services in Region 1 for the next fiscal year.
 - ❖ A decision will be made at the May 9, 2005 meeting.
- Betty Hampton has just opened her own practice in O'Neill, Nebraska
- Cari Brunner, Joan Yekel, and Juanita Rodriguez are new private provider in Region 1.
- Lisa Zlomke is at 92% of drawing down her funds.
- Katrina said contracts may be amended to adjust funding depending whether a program or individual needs funding or if allocated funds are not being used.

2. Program Audits

- Three program audits have been conducted since the last meeting of this Committee.
 - ✓ Gordon Tush audited Lise Zlomke in December 2006 and in his opinion, she is conducting her billing appropriately.
 - ❖ Lise Zlomke's supervision is being challenged by other professional providers and the subject continues to be controversial.
 - ✓ Katrina and Gordon audited First Step recently and they are doing well.
 - ✓ Katrina audited Mike Sullivan recently and she is also pleased with that audit.
- Katrina mentioned that two common problems for providers is the Magellan data system and some weaker treatment plans where documentation doesn't show progress for the patient.
 - ✓ Katrina said she is going to be involved with an HHSS counselor dinner during the Nebraska Spring Conference where she will be discussing outcome measures with providers.
 - ❖ Kate Speck suggested referencing two books, "The Heart and Soul of Change" and "Heroic Client," regarding an outcome rating scale focusing on client outcome.
- In the next few months there will be several more audits conducted, including another audit with Lise Zlomke.

BREAK

3. Counselor Certification

- A list of Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification Advisory Board members was provided (attached).
 - ✓ Two new members to the Board are Betty Hampton and Deb Hammond.
 - Six applicants for problem gambling certification will be reviewed at a Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification Advisory Board meeting tomorrow, February 8, 2006.
 - ✓ Individuals who have achieved a national counselor certification on problem gambling can waive the practicum portion for counselor certification.
 - ✓ Katrina will check with national counselor certification on problem gambling requirements and report to the members of this committee.
 - Additional information concerning the Compulsive Gambling Counselor Certification Advisory Board functions was provided (attached).
4. Voucher Program
- Pertinent information concerning the voucher program was provided to the members (attached).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

New Initiatives

Evaluation and prevention are two areas that will be expanded with the funds provided by legislation last year.

1. Evaluation Initiative
- An explanation of evaluation and "An Evaluation Report Outline" was provided (attached).
 - Katrina asked the members to think about what kind of goals and outcomes they would like to measure and what information involving the voucher program they want to collect.
 - Bob Sylvester and Janet French strongly suggested giving vouchers more freely than they are presently given.
 - There will be more discussion at the next Problem Gambling Advisory Committee meeting concerning the voucher program.

Katrina asked for volunteers to review and score in the RFP process in March and April 2006.

- Janet French, Kate Speck and Dick Stalker will be available to help.
- All members will receive notices when the RFP's are available to view on the Internet.

2. Prevention Initiative
- Katrina provided an overview and took the lead on explaining the prevention initiatives referencing several handouts (attached).
 - Laurie Sutter, Prevention Manager at the Division of Behavioral Health Services has taken the lead on substance abuse prevention, which appears to tie in with problem gambling prevention.
 - A study conducted by the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, the Nebraska Annual Sociological Indicator Study (NASIS) collects information that would be very beneficial to gathering data relevant to problem gambling.
 - ✓ Buying into this study would be beneficial to assess adult problem gambling.
 - ✓ This Committee needs to be thinking about whether you would like to buy into this survey and what questions you would like to include in the survey to target the adult population.
 - ❖ Contact Katrina with questions you would like to include in the survey.
 - ❖ Katrina will provide last year's youth survey to the members at the next Problem Gambling Advisory Committee Meeting.
 - Barb Thomas explained the organization of the SICA coalitions in Nebraska.
 - ✓ The coalitions were formed in cooperation of a federal grant allocated for youth prevention in substance abuse.
 - ✓ The coalitions represent many systems such as National Guard, legal systems and elected officials.
 - ✓ If the coalitions already in placed were offered RFP's for problem gambling prevention it would make it possible to have a pilot plan and do some evidence-based practice through them, since they are already exist in communities.

- ✓ She gave an example of a success story in Buffalo County where a young man died after illegally purchasing alcohol at a liquor store and the local coalition worked with the city elected officials to change requirements for liquor sales in that community.
- Katrina explained the four environmental strategies of approaching problem gambling prevention.
 1. Policy
 2. Enforcement
 3. Communication
 4. Education
- ✓ Katrina would like to have three or four of the SICA coalitions already in place respond to RFP's.
 - ❖ She said there are no evidence-based prevention strategies that exist for problem gambling and we need to tie into substance abuse prevention and mold it into problem gambling prevention through the cooperation of the SICA coalitions.
 - ❖ She stressed the importance of getting started on the evaluation and prevention initiatives so the legislature is aware of the need for additional funding.
- Katrina asked the members, "What kind of youth gambling are we wanting to target?"
 - ✓ The group said they want to address the problem gambling.

Strategic Planning – Goals and Mission of GAP/Committee

The "Appendix E" was provided regarding the program's mission statement, goals and values (attached).

- Katrina led the discussion on next steps and updating strategic planning.
 - ✓ It was suggested that the goals be revisited and to look at measures to determine if the goals have been successful.
 - ✓ More information could be gathered from other States.
 - ✓ Barb Thomas said that her interest as supervisor of the problem gambling program is for Nebraska to become a nationally highlighted program.
 - ✓ Everyone agreed that the progress made since the goals were set is important.
 - ✓ Barb suggested everyone participate by answering a few questions about the goals accomplished by the program.
 - ❖ The Division will email members questions and they may bring their answers to the May 9, 2006 Commission meeting.

LUNCH

Kate Speck Report

Kate Speck of the Prairieland ATTC provided information on the "PATTC 2006 Activity Roster" (attached).

- Two years ago Prairielands became the designated PATTC to address gambling issues.
- She is looking for presenters for the August 16-18, 2006 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse.
 - ✓ You may apply at 1-888.betsoff.org.
 - ✓ Laurie Sutter and Katrina Ondracek will present on the Nebraska Risk Factor Survey.
- CEU's for substance abuse and problem gambling will be given for attendance to this conference.
- Kate is seeking nominations for individuals to attend a Leadership Conference and an Educator Conference.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislation

"Nebraska Legislation Behavioral Health Related Bills Jan to Apr 2006," "Legislative Resolution 259CA," "Legislative Resolution 259CA," "Nebraska Unicameral Legislature 99th Legislature Second Session Tentative Schedule of Committee Hearings," "Legislative Bill 1039 and Impact Summary," and "GAP Data Information Request from Senator McDonald's Office" was provided (attached).

1. LR259CA

- This bill would increase the amount the Gamblers Assistance Program receives from the State Lottery by \$500,000.

- The impact statement reflects Katrina's opinion and HHS has not committed to support the bill.

2. LB1039

- This bill would create requirements for the State Lottery advertising budget. It would require 3½% of the State Lottery's budget revenue to be used towards advertising. Of that 3 ½%, 10% of their advertising would be required to be used for problem gambling awareness.
- The State Lottery is strongly apposed to this bill passing.
 - ✓ They say if this bill passes their advertising funds would be cut and it would result in cutting revenues for the State of Nebraska.

Senator McDonald is sponsor for both LR259CA and LB1039.

- Katrina has provided her with program data to help her with testimony.
 - ✓ The information includes an overview of what has been done with funds allocated to the Gamblers Assistance Program last year and what the plans are in the next one and one-half years.
 - ✓ The information also explains the planning of prevention and evaluation initiatives.
 - ✓ A chart shows an increase of problem gambling in the State of Nebraska.

3. Other relevant legislation

- LB1179
 - ✓ This bill would eliminate the Behavioral Health Council, retaining the three Advisory Committees. It would change the language that the committees would advise the Division of Behavioral Health Services, not the Council.
 - ✓ Senator Jensen originated this bill and he is now supporting eliminating it.
 - ✓ If the bill passes it does not have an emergency clause, so the Council would exist for the May 9, 2006 meeting.

Other

There was no other business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deb Hammond of Choices addressed the members informing them of relevant information on problem gambling.

- The Governor will be signing a Proclamation at 10:30 a.m. on February 13, 2006.
- The Mayor of Lincoln will be signing a Proclamation the first day of the Spring Conference and Lieutenant Governor will speak the second day.
- She stressed that problem gambling prevention is important at a very early age.
- She feels gambling problems need to be addressed at an earlier age than what data shows, as it is a learned family environment problem.
- She urged members to read LB1179 and be clear on what it says.

Mike Sullivan from Norfolk, Nebraska also addressed the members.

- He believes being a private provider, a program provider, or just providing individual counseling does not link consumers up with the other people in ongoing recovery.
 - ✓ It is his belief that consumers need to have someone they can call in between times and he feels consumers need to have contact with someone outside of their particular program.
 - ✓ He recently conducted his own survey at a parochial high school involving the entire high school body.
 - ❖ Results showed that a 26% endorsement ranged from problem gambling to pathological gambling.

PROBLEM GAMBLING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL

- The Problem Gambling Committee supports LB1039 and LR259CA.
- The Problem Gambling Advisory Committee will move ahead to partner with the Division of Behavioral Health Services and Sate SICA Coalitions to develop problem gambling prevention strategies.

- The Gambling Assistance Program will provide 2-3 questions on the NASIS survey to gather problem gambling data on adults.
- Educate the field on advanced treatment planning.
- Explore outcome measurement tools to provide outcome “report cards.”

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- More strategic planning discussion.
- Additional information on the voucher program.
- Update on Prairieland ATTC from Kate Speck.

NEXT MEETING

The next Problem Gambling Advisory Committee meeting will be held on May 9, 2006. Committee members are encouraged to attend.

Other meeting dates for 2006 are set for May 9, August 8 and November 7, 2006.

ADJOURN

John asked if there was additional business for the Committee. There being none the meeting was ADJORNED at 2:00 p.m.

Prepared by Linda L. Jensen, Staff Assistant I, Division of Behavioral Health Services on February 17, 2006.

Approved by _____

Katrina Ondracek
Gamblers Assistance Program Manager
Division of Behavioral Health Services

Date _____